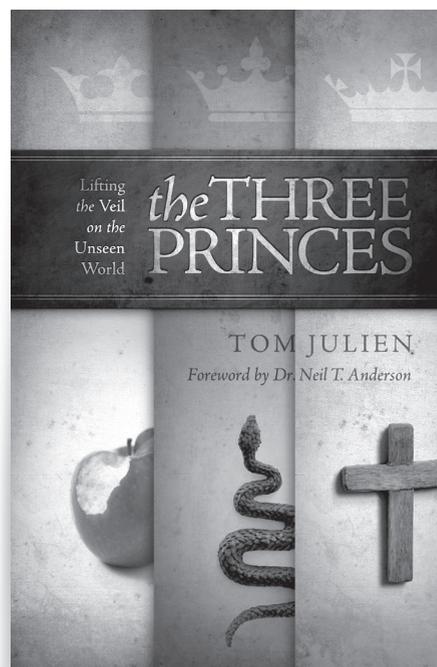


Using  
*The Three Princes*  
as a Bible Study  
Guide

# GOD'S PLAN UNVEILED



*The Three Princes*  
by Tom Julien

*Adult Bible  
Fellowship Studies*  
Prepared by Jesse Deloe

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**GOD'S PLAN  
UNVEILED  
LEADER'S GUIDE**

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## A LEADER'S GUIDE

### *for a study of The Three Princes by Tom Julien*

This guide is intended to help in the study of the Bible from a different perspective, using *The Three Princes* by Tom Julien (BMH Books, 2011). Other resources will be suggested with each study, but the study leader should keep in mind that the priority order in this study is the Bible, the Julien book, and this guide along with other resources. The Bible, after all, is the authoritative word from God. Anything else, at best, is merely a help in understanding and applying God's truth.

As you study, keep in mind the subtitle of Julien's book: *Lifting the Veil on the Unseen World*. There is a constant and persistent struggle in our world today that is often unrecognized. The Apostle Paul warns us that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, the Christian is to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Eph. 6:10).

An understanding of God's plan of redemption requires some knowledge of that struggle, which began in the Garden of Eden and will continue until Christ establishes His eternal kingdom. The victory has been won at the cross, and Satan has lost his authority (gained at Adam's expense), but he still maintains certain powers that oppose the work of God in this age.

Included with each lesson plan is a handout, which can be used to facilitate the students' participation. With each study, there are references to resources that you will find helpful in your preparation to teach. Acknowledging that effective teaching is more than just lecturing, this guide offers discussion questions (in **bold** type) and possible answers to those questions (marked with a diamond-shaped character ❖). Allow the class members to express their ideas before you suggest answers. Each student should have a copy of *The Three Princes*, BMH Books, ISBN 978-0-88469-278-2.

Each lesson includes some "essentials:" a timeless truth, which is the main emphasis to be remembered; a key verse, which could be used as a memory verse; and certain other statements, which might suggest answers to the questions "So what?" and "What am I to think or do as a result of this study?"

Several hints for using the material in the classroom or small group study are included on the following pages. They are only suggestions and will often offer more material than you can use. As the leader, you must use your own discernment in what to use, how to use it, or to disregard it altogether.

May God bring glory to Himself through your study and teaching.

## **SOME TEACHING HINTS**

Lecture may be a common teaching method, but it is probably the least effective unless the leader is unusually dynamic and creative. Class involvement is critical for the students to interact with the subject matter. Some of the following suggestions may help to gain the desired involvement and interaction. Keep in mind the age, the spiritual maturity, and the likely level of biblical knowledge of the class as you design your studies.

1. Assign the questions to individuals ahead of class and ask them to present their findings to the class in brief presentations.
2. Ask individuals to research additional information on the next week's topic or a sub point in the lesson and prepare a brief report for the class. Possibilities:
  - What does it mean to be "made in the image of God"? (chapter 1)
  - What was Lucifer's role before his fall? (chapter 2)
  - When did Jesus become fully aware of His deity? (chapter 6)
  - What does the Bible teach about Jesus being both man and God? (chapters 5 and 6)
  - What role did Satan play during Jesus' ministry on earth? In the Garden of Gethsemane? (chapters 6 and 7)
  - How does Satan confront the believer today? (chapter 12)
  - What armament has been provided for the believer in his battle with Satan? (chapters 12-14)
  - Where was Jesus during the three days of His burial? What was He doing? (chapter 15)
  - How is it that the defeated 2<sup>nd</sup> prince still exercises certain powers today? (chapter 16)
  - How is Jesus both a lamb and a lion? (chapter 17)
  - Why is there a need for new heavens and a new earth? (chapter 18)
3. Divide the class into small groups (two to four) and assign a specific question for them to discuss and report to the class. The assignment could involve a related Scripture passage, asking them to discuss how it relates to the day's topic: Does it confirm the assertion of the lesson, provide additional information, or raise questions about the interpretation? Is there any specific application to be made?
4. Using the same technique as #3, have the small groups examine the same question or passage of Scripture and then compare notes in a full-class discussion.

5. List significant terms in the study and ask the students to define them and cite Scripture that defines or illustrates their usage. Perhaps you could provide a quiz, asking the students to match the term in column 1 with the definitions listed in column 2.
6. Give the class occasional opportunities to speak of their experience related to the particular subject under consideration. Possible examples:
  - What have you come to understand about God and man? (chapter 1)
  - When and how did you come to some understanding of the Second Prince, his origins and purposes? (chapters 2-4)
  - How has your family celebrated the birth of Jesus at Christmas? (chapter 5)
  - How have you celebrated His resurrection?
  - How have you faced temptation in light of how Jesus faced temptation? (chapter 6)
  - Can you describe some experience you have had in facing Satan's threats and schemes? Describe the experience? How did you respond? (chapter 10)
  - What has been your experience with the church? How have you grown through your experience in the community of faith? (chapter 11)
  - How have you used the armor of God in spiritual warfare? (chapter 12)
  - What do you think the new heavens and the new earth will be like? (chapter 18)
  - To which prince does your life demonstrate allegiance? ("A Final Word")
  - How has the study of *The Three Princes* changed your worldview? Your understanding of God's purpose in Creation? Your response to God's call upon your life?
7. Use charts or tables (either printed handouts or on a chalkboard or white board) to demonstrate chronology, make comparisons or contrasts, list features of a Scripture passage, etc.
8. Interview an invited knowledgeable guest (such as a pastor or seminary professor) to pursue more difficult questions or relate personal experiences related to the studies' topic.
9. Ask the students to create newspaper headlines that might have appeared in a news report about some activity in the current study, like:
  - The creation
  - The fall and expulsion from the Garden
  - The birth of Jesus
  - His baptism

- His temptation
  - The Garden of Gethsemane experience
  - A clash between Satan and a believer in full armor
  - Any of the events of the Day of the Lord
10. Role play. Are there lessons that would lend themselves to a little play-acting? Perhaps best done by planning in advance, the students could enact a scene illustrative of some topic in the study. It need not be accurate; the class can then evaluate the depiction to determine what lessons of value might be learned from the scene?
11. Create true-or-false statements for the class to evaluate. Have them defend or explain their responses. What is the class consensus? If it is not accurate, correct it with biblical truth or acknowledge that one's perspective might determine a different approach. The same technique can be used with multiple-choice statements and questions.
12. At the end of each study, encourage your students to ask themselves, "So what," seeking personal application to new or reaffirmed truth. Perhaps you will share your own response to stimulate further conviction.

The content of this guide is the responsibility of its author alone and does not carry the endorsement of the author of *The Three Princes* or its publisher.

Your suggestions for improvement to this study guide will be greatly appreciated. Contact the author at [jdeloe@comcast.net](mailto:jdeloe@comcast.net).

# STUDY 1 – INTRODUCTION

## *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is to *introduce the series of studies*. At the end, students should understand what the study book is about, what a biblical worldview is, and have a basic understanding of Bible interpretation. They should also know how it all began.

**Timeless Truth** *God created the world, including all things, visible, and invisible.*

**Key Verse** *For by him all things were created . . . visible and invisible . . . all things were created by him and for him.* (Colossians 1:16)

Students should learn truth in the following five areas

1. What the book is about.
2. What a worldview is and, especially, how a Christian should view the world.
3. Basic principles of interpreting/understanding the Bible.
4. Who the three princes are.
5. How it all begin for mankind.

**Practical Question** *How am I living to acknowledge that God is the creator of all things?*

**Next week** *The Plan Launched*

- Read Genesis 1 and 2 and pages i-iii and 1-5 in *The Three Princes*
- What do you learn about the Creator?
- What do you learn about His creation?
- What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
- What was God's intended role for man?

# STUDY 1 – INTRODUCTION

## Leader's Guide

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to get a general view of the study guide and grasp a few fundamental suggestions about Bible interpretation.*

**Timeless Truth** *God created the world, including all things, visible, and invisible.*

**Key Verse** *For by him all things were created . . . visible and invisible . . . all things were created by him and for him.* (Colossians 1:16)

1. What the book is about (pages i-iii)
  - a. Read or relate the content of the first paragraph of “About this Book,” page i.
  - b. Explain the purposes of the book, pages i-ii:
    - To provide a biblical worldview,
    - To instill a conscious and ongoing *awareness* of the reality of the unseen world (the spirit world), and
    - To instill in the reader an enduring attitude of *worship* for the Prince who is destined to reign forever.
2. What a worldview is and, especially, how a Christian should view the world (page 1; see Colson resources)
  - a. **Discuss: What is a worldview?**
    - ❖ The way one thinks about the world.
    - ❖ A way of making sense of the world and our lives in it.
    - ❖ A particular philosophy of life, and intellectual perspective of the world.)
  - b. **Discuss: What is a biblical worldview?**
    - ❖ Practicing the kingship of Jesus (Chuck Colson).
    - ❖ Living every area of our lives in obedience to and for the honor of Jesus Christ (Colson).
    - ❖ Viewing and interpreting life from a biblical perspective.

3. Basic principles of interpreting/understanding the Bible (See Deloe and Ryrie resources.)

**a. Discuss: How do we interpret Scripture correctly?**

- ❖ Compare Scripture with Scripture. The Bible is its own best interpreter. Let the clearer passages clarify the less clear passages.
- ❖ The *Golden Rule of Interpretation*: When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths indicate otherwise.
- ❖ Look for the *natural* sense—the principle of simplicity, the *original* sense—the principle of history, and the *general* sense—the principle of harmony. (John W. Stott)

**b. Discuss: What is the difference between affirming and inferring a belief?** (page 5)

- ❖ “Affirming” is simply agreeing with or giving credence to what is stated. “Inferring” is coming to your own conclusion about what is stated. Inferences are opinions.

4. Who the three princes are

- ❖ Adam exercised his authority during a woefully brief period.
- ❖ Satan seized authority as a usurper. He is now the “prince of this world.”
- ❖ Jesus triumphed over Satan and regained what the first prince had lost.

5. How it all began for mankind, Genesis 1-2.

- a. God created everything in six days, Genesis 1
- b. He created Adam and Eve, Genesis 1:26a, 27; 2:18, 20b, 21-24

**Practical Question** *How am I living to acknowledge that God is the creator of all things?*

**Resources**

*colsoncenter.org*

Jesse Deloe, *Sweeter Than Honey*, chapter 8, “On Interpreting the Bible,” BMH Books, 1979

Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, chapter 16, “The Interpretation of the Bible,” Moody Press, 1999

John W. Stott, *Understanding the Bible*, Zondervan, 1982

## **STUDY 2 - THE PLAN LAUNCHED**

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to discover God's plan in creation*. At the end, students should understand how the world was created and what role man was to have in the world.

**Timeless Truth** *God's plan was that man should rule over His creation.*

**Key Verse** *God said, "Let us make man in our image . . . and let them rule over . . . all the earth."* (Genesis 1:26)

1. What are some of the characteristics of God?
2. What happened at creation?
3. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
4. What was God's plan in creation?

**Practical Question** *How can I protect God's creation in my daily life?*

**Next week** *God's Plan Disrupted*, part 1

- Read Genesis 3 and chapter 2 in *The Three Princes*.
- What do we know about angels?
- What do we know about Satan? (See Ezekiel 28:9-19 (an allegory) and Isaiah 14:13-16.)
- What are Satan's evil intentions?

## **STUDY 2 – THE PLAN LAUNCHED**

### *Leader's Guide*

**Timeless Truth** *God's plan was that man should rule over His creation.*

**Key Verse** *God said, "Let us make man in our image . . . and let them rule over . . . all the earth." (Genesis 1:26)*

1. Creation
  - a. Read Genesis 1:1-24 (only first phrases of each) and Psalm 33:1-9
  - b. Preexistence – obviously God was there at creation
  - c. So were the angels, Job 38:7
2. Creation's God
  - a. **Discuss: What do we mean when we say God is infinite?**
    - ❖ Illustrations, page 8
      - He created everything, John 1:13; Colossians 1:16
      - Psalm 19:1-4 – where there is a design, there must be a designer.
  - b. **Discuss: What do we mean when we say God is personal?** page 10
  - c. **Discuss: How can God be both transcendent and immanent?**
3. God's Creation
  - a. **Discuss: What does it mean that man was created in the image of God?**
    - ❖ Man was created in the likeness of God, a person, Genesis 1:26a, 27; what does that mean?
      - "Image" = resemblance
        - Like a mirror; it can't depict all its dimensions, yet it is a true likeness, (Keller, page 83)
        - "When God put his image in us, we became beings of infinite, inestimable value," (Keller, page 83)
        - Murder and cursing of men are heinous because of man's having been created in the image of God.

- Genesis 9:6 – “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for **in the image of God has God made man.**”
- James 3:9 – “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, **who have been made in God's likeness.**”

- Schwarzwalder: “If we are made in God's image and likeness, we are endowed by the capacity for moral action and are, thus, responsible for the moral actions we take.”

❖ Personality is an elusive concept. Two realities:

- Man was created directly by a personal God from the dust of the earth and not from lower forms of life
- Man was created as a fully developed being.

**c. Discuss: What is the essential difference between man and the animals?**

- ❖ God breathed life into animals, but He breathed spirituality into man. (A third reality)

**d. Discuss: What does man's spirituality mean?**

- ❖ “The capacity to rise above time and space in his perception of reality. ... From man's spirituality flow all the qualities that distinguish him from beasts.” (*The Three Princes*, page 16)

4. God's Plan

**a. Discuss: What was God's plan for man?** Genesis 1:26, 28; Psalm 8:3-8

- ❖ “Adam was created to be a prince. His kingdom was the earth. He was appointed ruler over God's new world.” (*The Three Princes*, page 16)
- ❖ “God gave humanity authority over the world's resources, but not ownership.” (*The Three Princes*, page 85), Psalm 8:8; 24:1

**Postscript**

1. Adam's reign was pathetically brief.
2. Nothing in the visible world in Eden would suggest the tragedy about to occur. To understand it, we must look into the unseen world.
3. Next week: *High Treason, God's Plan Disrupted*, read Genesis 3

**Practical Question** *How can I protect God's creation in my daily life?*

**Resources**

John P. Burke, *Studies in Genesis*, BMH Books, 1978

Weston W. Fields, *Unformed and Unfilled*, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1976

Timothy Keller, *Generous Justice*, Riverhead Trade, 2012

John C. Whitcomb, *The Early Earth, An Introduction to Biblical Creationism*, BMH Books, 2010

# STUDY 3 – THE PLAN DISRUPTED

## Part 1

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to discover the true identity of Satan and his evil intentions.*

**Timeless Truth** *Satan's goal is to dethrone God and lead mankind astray.*

**Key Verse** *The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. (Revelation 12:9)*

The student should read carefully Genesis 3 and chapter 3 of *The Three Princes*, and consider the following questions:

1. What do we know about angels?
2. What do we know about Satan? (See Ezekiel 28:9-19 [an allegory] and Isaiah 14:13-16.)
3. What were Satan's evil intentions?

**Practical Question** *How am I to respond to Satan's role as prince of this world?*

**Next week** *The Plan Disrupted, part 2*

- Read Genesis 3; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:1-3 and chapter 3 of *The Three Princes*.
- How did the “fall” come about? Who was involved?
- What were/are the results of the fall?
- What is Satan's strategy today?

# STUDY 3 – THE PLAN DISRUPTED

## Part 1

### Leader's Guide

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to discover the true identity of Satan and his evil intentions.*

**Timeless Truth** *Satan's goal is to dethrone God and lead mankind astray.*

**Key Verse** *The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. (Revelation 12:9)*

#### 1. The Setting

- God's creation was good, Gen. 1:25, 31
- The angels witnessed the creation, Job 38:7
- The creation was completed with the creation of Adam and Eve, Gen. 2:21-22, and instructions, Gen. 2:15

#### 2. Discuss: What was God's plan for man? Genesis 1:26, 28; Psalm 8:3-8

- ❖ “Adam was created to be a prince. His kingdom was the earth. He was appointed ruler over God's new world.” (*The Three Princes*, page 16)
- ❖ “God gave humanity authority over the world's resources, but not ownership.” Psalm 8:8; 24:1, (*The Three Princes*, page 85)

#### 3. Discuss: What do we know about angels?

- ❖ Angels are God's messengers, Psalm 103:20-21, and were created perfect
- ❖ Some angels sinned, 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6
- ❖ When? Scripture does not say, but perhaps at the fall of Satan. Satan's fall may be described in Revelation 12:3-4, where it is said that “his tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to earth.” (“Star” in Scripture often refers to angels.)

#### 4. Discuss: What do we know about Satan? (See Ezekiel 28:9-19 [an allegory] and Isaiah 14:13-16.)

- ❖ Lucifer, the highest of angels, was in the garden. Ezekiel 28:12-19 (an allegory)
  - You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (v. 12)

- You were in Eden, the garden of God (v. 13)
- You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you (v. 14)
- You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till (v. 15)

**5. Discuss: What were his evil intentions?**

- ❖ We might infer that Lucifer was appointed by God to be the “guardian cherub” of Adam and Eve.
- ❖ Lucifer, perhaps the most exalted of angelic beings, was appointed to be the guardian of Adam, the most exalted of God's earthly creations
- ❖ Likely, the reference is to Lucifer's fall with a host of angels. What was his sin?
  - Lucifer was lifted up with pride and jealousy against Adam, this physically vulnerable human being, limited by time and space and a one-dimensional perception of God's world. “What was God thinking,” Lucifer may have mused, “in giving this weakling authority over the earth, when I am the one who should be ruling?” Lucifer quickly lost the sense of his own mission and began to covet the mission of man. Even Paul recognizes the devil's conceit. (1 Timothy 3:6)
  - Worse: as Lucifer pondered seizing the authority given by God to Adam, something infinitely more sinister began to fill his mind: Why not make a play for the very throne of God? (Isaiah 14:13-14)
  - God said, “Wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.” (Isaiah 14:15-16)

**Practical Question** *How am I to respond to Satan's role as prince of this world?*

**Resources**

Lewis Speery Chafer, *Satan*, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2012

Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, chapter 22 (Angels, Satan), Moody Press, 1989

Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, chapters 22 & 23 (Satan), Moody Press, 2004

## **STUDY 4 – THE PLAN DISRUPTED**

### **Part 2**

#### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to understand man's sin against God and the results of his fall.*

**Timeless Truth** *Rebellion against God and His plan is sin, resulting in death.*

**Key Verse** *After desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:15)*

The student should read carefully Genesis 3, Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:1-3 and chapter 3 of *The Three Princes*, and consider the following questions:

1. How did the fall come about?
2. What were/are the results of the fall?
3. Who is the second prince? How did he become prince?
4. What is Satan's strategy in this age?

**Practical Question** *How can I escape the "roaring lion," who seeks to destroy my relationship with God?*

**Next week** *The Plan Re-Activated*

- Read Genesis 12:1-3; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Matthew 1:22-23 and chapter 5 of *The Three Princes*.
- How does God's promise to Abraham relate to Jesus Christ?
- What did the Old Testament prophets say about Messiah? (See Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:10; chapter 23.)
- What do we learn about Jesus from the announcements of Messiah's coming? (See Matthew 2:20-23 and Luke 1:26-38.)
- What does the incarnation mean? How long is it to continue?

## STUDY 4 – THE PLAN DISRUPTED

### Part 2

#### Leader's Guide

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to understand man's sin against God, and the results of his fall.*

**Timeless Truth** *Rebellion against God and His plan is sin, resulting in death.*

**Key Verse** *After desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.* (James 1:15)

#### 1. Discuss: How did the “fall” come about?

- ❖ Eve's naiveté: she was probably absolutely amazed at all she and Adam were discovering in God's creation and was not startled that a serpent spoke to her. He is identified in Rev. 19:9-10 as the “ancient serpent,” called the devil (“accuser”).
- ❖ The temptation
  - He sowed doubt, “Did God really say . . .?”
  - He flatly contradicted God's command, “You will not die.”
  - He offered Eve moral authority, “You will be like God.”
- ❖ Eve's sin (disobedience) was a response to seduction that aroused the desire John later described in 2 John 2:16).
- ❖ Eve gave to Adam, who was there with her, and he sinned willfully. His sin was disobedience and an attempt to achieve independence.
  - Lucifer was hoping to pit God's justice against his love.
  - Satan's strategy was twofold: 1) overthrowing Adam as prince of the world and 2) seeking to topple God from His throne.

#### 2. Discuss: What were the results of the fall?

- a. Immediate
  - ❖ Shame, Genesis 3:7. When sin came, the body ceased being an expression of the spirit, but instead became an object of carnal desire. (In the resurrected body the original intent will be restored, and we will be motivated by the spirit.)

- ❖ Alienation from and loss of fellowship with God, Genesis 3:8-10
- ❖ Refusal of responsibility, Genesis 3:11-13
- ❖ Expulsion from the garden
- ❖ Hard work

b. Ultimate

- ❖ Sin brought into the world sickness and physical death and moral sickness and spiritual death.
- ❖ Adam is held responsible for the all of the human race, Romans 5:12. The Bible does not say that we are guilty of Adam's sin but the universality of death proves that all mankind has been affected by Adam's sin.
- ❖ The essence of sin: transforming freedom into independence from the one in whom "we live and move and have our being," Acts 17:28, and with whom there is genuine freedom John 8:36.
- ❖ Satan usurps Adam's intended role as prince over God's creation and becomes the prince of this world, John 12:31.

**3. Discuss: Who is the second prince? How did he become prince?**

- ❖ By willfully refusing the authority of God, Adam unknowingly put himself under the authority of Satan. By shifting Adam's allegiance from God to himself, Satan obtained legal authority over the kingdoms of the world. The moment Adam chose to step down from his position of God-given authority, by aligning himself with Satan's lies, Satan stepped up to become the new reigning prince.
  - Jesus repeatedly recognized Satan's role as "prince of this world," John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11. Also, Ephesians 2:2; 1 John 5:19.

4. Full-scale Rebellion

- a. Satan had achieved his first goal; but will never achieve the second.
  - Satan has access to God, cf. Job 1.
  - He has power and, in Job's case, was given freedom to inflict suffering on one of God's choicest servants. Cf. Paul's "thorn in the flesh" is called a "messenger of Satan," 2 Corinthians 12:7.
- b. The Old Testament presents an unending cycle of rebellion and judgment.

**c. Discuss: What is Satan's strategy in this age?**

- ❖ Idolatry: ludicrous example, Isaiah 44:16-18
- ❖ Occult practices: warnings, Deuteronomy 18:9-13
- ❖ Illicit sex. Although there are no direct Scripture references explicitly relating demonic activity to illicit sexual practices, both biblical and secular history contain an immense wealth of evidence of their association.

**Practical Question** *How can I escape the "roaring lion," who seeks to destroy my relationship with God?*

**Resources**

*Christian Faith*, chapters 5 and 6 (Man and the fall), CE National, Winona Lake, Ind., 2004

Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, chapters 31 and 33 (Man and the fall), Moody Press, 2004

Francis A. Schaeffer, *Genesis in Space and Time*, chapters 4 and 5, InterVarsity Press, 1971

## **STUDY 5 – THE PLAN RE-ACTIVATED**

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to discover Jesus as the fulfillment of God's plan and to understand the extraordinary means God used to achieve it.*

**Timeless Truth** *Messiah (Jesus) is the fulfillment of God's promise to bless all peoples through Him.*

**Key Verse** *When the time had fully come, God sent his son, born of a woman . . . to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)*

The student should read carefully Genesis 12:1-3; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Matthew 1:22-23 and chapter 5 of *The Three Princes*, and consider the following questions:

1. How does God's promise to Abraham relate to Jesus Christ?
2. What did the Old Testament prophets say about Messiah? (See Isaiah 9:5-7; 11:10; chapter 23)
3. What do we learn about Jesus from the announcements of Messiah's coming? (See Matthew 2:20-23 and Luke 1:26-38.)
4. What does incarnation mean? How long does it continue?

**Practical Question** *What does the incarnation of Jesus mean to me today?*

**Next week** *The Plan Tested*

- Read Matthew 2:13-11; 26:36-42; Luke 22:39-44 and chapters 6-7 of *The Three Princes*.
- In what sense and to what degree was Jesus limited in the incarnation?
- When did Jesus become fully aware that He was God?
- Why did Jesus submit to baptism? How was the Trinity involved?
- Was the episode in Gethsemane a final attempt of Satan to kill Jesus before the cross?

## **STUDY 5 – THE PLAN RE-ACTIVATED**

### *Leader's Guide*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to discover Jesus as the fulfillment of God's plan and to understand the extraordinary means God used to achieve it.*

**Timeless Truth** *Messiah (Jesus) is the fulfillment of God's promise to bless all peoples through Him.*

**Key Verse** *When the time had fully come, God sent his son, born of a woman . . . to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)*

1. The Promises in the Old Testament
  - a. The promise of the cursing of Satan's head, Genesis 3:15
  - b. The promise to Abraham, Genesis 12:1-3
    - **What are immediate observations about verse 1?**
      - ❖ A command to leave his homeland
      - ❖ The necessity of faith: "the land I will show you"
      - ❖ Obedience
    - **What are the essential elements of the promise?**
      - ❖ A land (cf. v. 7), offspring (v. 7), a blessing
      - ❖ Future fulfillment; could not all happen in his lifetime
      - ❖ It was unconditional; what does that mean?
    - Abraham obeyed, vv. 4-9
  - c. **Discuss: How does God's promise relate to Jesus Christ?**
    - ❖ See Galatians 3:16
2. The Messiah
  - a. **Discuss: What did the Old Testament prophets foretell about Messiah?**
  - b. **Discuss: What elements of the prophecies were confusing to those looking for Messiah?**

**c. Discuss: What do we learn from the announcements of Messiah's coming?**

- To Mary
- To Joseph
- To the shepherds

**d. What do we know about Jesus before His public ministry?**

- As a boy
- At age 12

**3. Satan's Involvement**

- How much did he know and understand about the coming of Messiah?
- What part did Satan play in trying to prevent His coming and ministry?

**4. The Incarnation**

**a. Discuss: What does the incarnation mean?**

- John 1:14; Galatians 4:4

**b. Discuss: What is its importance?**

- Hebrews 2:14-18

**Practical Question** *What does the incarnation of Jesus mean to me today?*

**Resources**

John Burke, *Studies in Genesis*, chapter 7, "The Call of Abram," BMH Books, 1978

Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, pages 217-224 (Prophecies, Incarnation), Moody Press, 1989

Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, chapter 41 (The Incarnation), Moody Press, 2004

## **STUDY 6 – THE PLAN TESTED**

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to understand how Jesus' life demonstrated His complete dependence upon God the Father and became the perfect example for us.*

**Timeless Truth** *The key to victory over sin is submission to God.*

**Key Verse** *[God] will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear . . . he will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. In what sense and to what degree was Jesus limited in the incarnation?
2. Why did Jesus submit to baptism? How was the Trinity involved?
3. What was the nature and purpose of Satan's temptation of Jesus?
4. What really happened in Gethsemane?

**Practical Question** *What can we learn from Jesus' experience to help in our temptations today?*

**Next week** *The Plan's Cost*

- Read Colossians 1:18-23; 2:13-15 and *The Three Princes*, chapter 8.
- What is the significance of Jesus' death on the cross?
- What is death all about?
- What did Jesus' death on the cross involve? What did he experience on our behalf?
- What does it mean that Jesus visited Hades?

## **STUDY 6 – THE PLAN TESTED**

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**Key Verse** *[God] will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear . . . he will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

1. Introduction: What is a “mystery” in the Bible?”
  - A reality previously unknown that is full revealed.
  - The mysterious plan of God could not be fully understood until He chose to reveal it. (In fact, we could know nothing about God except by His self-revelation.)
  - Though the prophets spoke of God’s plan and things to come, they did not comprehend the plan, nor did the angels. 1 Peter 1:12
2. The Incarnation
  - a. The beginning of the “unveiling” of God’s plan was promised in Genesis 3:15
  - b. Discuss: In what sense and to what degree was Jesus limited in the incarnation?**
    - ❖ Remember that Jesus completely emptied Himself of the independent exercise of His divine attributes.
    - ❖ That means that all His miraculous activity was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and not by Jesus’ divine abilities.
  - c. Which is harder to believe/understand: the deity of Christ or His humanity?
3. The Baptism of Jesus, Matthew 3:13-16
  - a. Discuss: Why did Jesus submit to baptism?**
    - ❖ To identify with the sinful people He came to save (2 Corinthians 5:21). Unger: “It was an ‘act of ceremonial righteousness,’ required of

all priests at about age 30. It is this consecration to His redemptive priesthood that comes into clearest view in His baptism. The consecration was twofold: first, the washing (baptism), then, the anointing.”

**b. Discuss: How was the Trinity involved?**

- ❖ Jesus Himself was baptized.
- ❖ The Spirit of God anoints Jesus. Cf. Isaiah 42:1
- ❖ God the Father spoke, acknowledging Jesus as His Son.

c. When did Jesus become fully aware of His deity?

- At His birth?
- When His mother told Him about the angel’s announcement to her?
- At 12 when He confronted the teachers in the temple? Luke 2:46-50. Jesus: “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”
- At His baptism? (*The Three Princes*, pages 55-56)

4. The Temptation: The Fateful Encounter

a. Why was Jesus sent by the Spirit into the wilderness after His baptism?

- ❖ *The Three Princes*: “He was struggling to process the shocking disclosure that He was God.”

**b. Discuss: What was Satan’s purpose or goal in the temptation of Jesus?**

- ❖ *The Three Princes*: “Redemption required that Jesus gain back as a man what Adam had lost. The thrust of the temptation was not for Jesus to sin as we know sin, but to fail His divine mission—by setting aside His humanity and independently manifesting His divine power and authority. To do so would mean that Jesus would fail in His mission. Satan’s strategy was to push Jesus beyond His humanity; to cause Him to resort to His divinity.” Satan: “If you are the son of God, prove it” (page 57).

c. What was the result?

- ❖ *The Three Princes*: “In His first personal encounter with the archenemy, Jesus as a man gained back the right to rule. Satan, defeated, left in shame. The first Adam had lost everything by affirming his independence toward God. The last Adam had just triumphed by affirming His submission to the Father” (page 59).

5. The Agony of the Garden, Matthew 26:36-42; Luke 22:39-44: All-out Warfare
- a. Discuss: What really happened at Gethsemane?**
- ❖ Note: Satan entered Judas before the Last Supper, Luke 22:3
  - ❖ Jesus was completely alone. The disciples slept
- b. What was the cup? Why did Jesus pray to avoid it?
- ❖ The sin of mankind and its wages, total separation from God the Father (page 65). Cp. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- c. What was Satan's role in this scene?
- ❖ The plot was "orchestrated by Satan himself," (page 61).
  - ❖ Jesus suffered "to the point of death" Matt. 26:38; cf. Heb. 5:7-8
  - ❖ He feared premature death, a death that would compromise His mission (page 66).
- d. What was the Father's response to Jesus' prayer that He be delivered?
- ❖ Jesus was delivered from a premature death but not from the cross for which He came.

**Practical Question** *What can we learn from Jesus' experience to help in our temptations today?*

### **Resources**

Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, chapters 41, "Incarnation," and 44, "The Self-emptying of Christ," Moody Press, 1999

*Unger's Bible Dictionary*, "Baptism of Jesus," page 122, Moody Press, 1980

Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, chapter 2, "Birth: The Visited Planet;" chapter 4, "Temptation: Showdown in the Desert," and pages 194-196, "Gethsemane," Zondervan, 1995

## **STUDY 7 – THE PLAN'S COST**

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to understand the great cost in working out God's plan and providing redemption for fallen man.*

**Timeless Truth** *By His death and resurrection Jesus gained back what Adam had lost and assumed His rule as God's prince.*

**Key Verse** *Just as sin and death entered the world through one man [Adam], how much more did God's grace [come] by the grace of the one man [Jesus].* (Romans 5:12, 15, paraphrased)

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is the significance of Jesus' death on the cross?
2. What is death all about?
3. What did Jesus' death on the cross involve? What did He experience on our behalf?
4. What does it mean that Jesus visited Hades?

**Practical Question** *How does my life demonstrate that I have been delivered from the penalty of sin?*

#### **Next week** *The Plan's Benefits*

- What is the significance of the Resurrection?
- What are the benefits to the believer because of the Cross and the Resurrection?
- What is God's "secret weapon"?
- What metaphors are used to describe the church? What does each suggest about its nature?

## STUDY 7 – THE PLAN'S COST

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#### 1. The Cross

##### a. **Discuss: What is the significance of Jesus' death on the cross?**

- ❖ It is the focal point of history and the culmination of all God's dealings with mankind from the time of Adam's rebellion. Since then, everything flows from the cross.
- ❖ The cross represents "the power of God," 1 Corinthians 1:18 (as does the resurrection, Ephesians 1:19-20).
- ❖ Note the effects of the cross in the believer, Galatians 6:14, and it is only in the cross that the Christian can boast.

##### b. Significant passages in Colossians on the cross and its meaning.

- 1:20 – everything is reconciled through the cross.
- 2:14 – the sin code was canceled at the cross.
- 2:15 – powers and authorities are disarmed, a triumphant victory by the cross.

#### 2. Death

##### a. **Discuss: What is death all about? What did it mean for Jesus?**

- ❖ Spiritual death – separation of the spirit from God (Matthew 27:46)
  - Forsaken by God; what did it mean for Jesus to be forsaken by the Father?
  - He experienced eternal hell (while he was still alive physically); how could He do so in only three hours or less?

- Outer darkness, Jude 13, 2 Peter 2:17
- Isolation, loss of all identity (cf. Sartre's illustration in Julien, pages 71-72)
- ❖ Physical death – separation of the spirit from the body
  - He commended His spirit to the Father, Matthew 27:50
  - By His own will He “gave up the ghost,” John 19:30

**b. Discuss: What is the meaning of Jesus' death to the believer?**

- ❖ Sin's penalty paid in full, Colossians 2:13-14.
- ❖ Cf. the temple curtain torn, Mark 15:38
- ❖ Direct access to the Father made possible, Hebrews 10:19-20

3. Hades

a. What is Hades all about? Ephesians 4:9

- Jesus descended into Hades (the home of the dead).
- Hades is not hell. Hell is the outer darkness of total separation from God, and Jesus experienced that in His spiritual death before He died physically.

**b. Discuss: Why did Jesus visit there?**

- ❖ Not as a part of His payment for sin; that was all accomplished in His spiritual death before He died physically.
- ❖ In His physical death He entered Hades in triumph as the new Prince of this world (*The Three Princes*, page 74).

c. What were the results of His visit? Ephesians 4:9; 1 Peter 3:18-20; Colossians 2:15

- ❖ The spirits of the righteous dead were delivered.
- ❖ Satan was stripped of his authority (though he still exercises illegitimate power).
- ❖ Satan and his demons were led in humiliation into God's presence.
- ❖ Believers who die no longer go to Hades but directly into God's presence, 2 Corinthians 5:8; CF. Acts 7:55-59.

**Practical Question** *How does my life demonstrate that I have been delivered from the penalty of sin?*

**Resources**

Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, chapter 51, "The Meaning of Christ's Death," Moody Press, 1999

Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, pages 232-235, "The Death of Christ," Moody Press, 1989

Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, pages 194-196, "Calvary," Zondervan, 1995

## **STUDY 8 – THE PLAN'S BENEFITS**

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to understand what Jesus' death and resurrection have provided for the believer.*

**Timeless Truth** *By faith in Christ we are declared righteous and brought into fellowship with God.*

**Key Verse** *God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is the significance of the Resurrection?
2. What did Jesus' death and resurrection accomplish for us?
3. What is God's secret weapon?
4. What metaphors are used to describe the church? What does each suggest about its nature?

**Practical Question** *What effect does the resurrection of Christ have on me personally?*

**Next week** *The Plan's Warfare*

- Read: 1 Peter 5:8; James 1:14-15; Ephesians 6:10-18 and *The Three Princes*, chapters 10 and 12.
- How did Satan oppose God's plan in the Old Testament? In the New Testament?
- What are Satan's weapons in our spiritual warfare? Where does he center his attack?
- What is the progress of sin?
- What has God provided for the Christian to use in spiritual warfare?

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**Key Verse** *God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.* (Ephesians 2:6)

1. What Jesus accomplished in His Death and Resurrection (*The Three Princes*, chapter 8)
  - a. The most staggering show of power every displayed, cf. Ephesians 1:19-21
  - b. Discuss: What is the significance of the resurrection?**
    - ❖ Penalty for sin paid – redemption; justification, Romans 4:25
    - ❖ Direct access to God made possible
      - Immediate access to God in prayer, Hebrews 10:19-20 (See *The Three Princes*, page 58)
      - At death, Christians go immediately to heaven, 2 Corinthians 5:8 (“absent from the body, present with the Lord”), cf. Acts. 7:55-59
    - ❖ Saints freed from Hades and led to heaven, Ephesians 4:9
    - ❖ Satan and his demons led in humiliation into God's presence, Colossians 2:15
    - ❖ Satan Defeated, stripped of his authority as prince
    - ❖ A new prince enthroned, Philippians 2:9-11
2. What did the resurrection accomplish for the Christian?
  - a. A new status
    - ❖ We are a new creation, 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Peter 7:9-10 (*The Three Princes*, chapter 9)
    - ❖ We are “raised with Christ”? Ephesians 2:6 a legal position
    - ❖ A “new man” has been created,” Ephesians 2:15; together we form one body, the church, Romans 12:5

- ❖ We have citizenship in heaven, Philippians 3:20, thus, we are aliens in this world, 1 Peter 2:11
- ❖ We are His ambassadors on earth, 2 Corinthians 5:20
- b. We are “in Christ”? What does that mean?
  - ❖ Justified – declared righteous, no condemnation, Romans 8:1
  - ❖ “Made alive,” 1 Corinthians 15:22
  - ❖ Adopted, Ephesians 1:5; a new identity with full rights as sons, Galatians 4:6-7
- c. What does it mean that Christ is “in us”?
  - ❖ The hidden mystery, Ephesians 1:9-10 – “all things ... under one head”; Colossians 1:18 – “the head of the body, the church”
  - ❖ The temple of God, 1 Corinthians 3:17 – collectively; 1 Corinthians 6:19 – individually
  - ❖ Transformed into His image – sanctified, made righteous, 2 Corinthians 3:18
  - ❖ Able to bear fruit, John 15:1-17, must remain in the vine, Jesus
- 3. God's Secret Weapon (*The Three Princes*, chapter 11)
  - a. What is the purpose of human history?
    - ❖ “The purpose of human history is the calling out and perfecting of the bride; she is the focal point of God's great plan” (page 103).
  - b. Discuss: What is God's secret weapon?**
    - ❖ Matthew 12:16; Acts 26:18; it began at Pentecost, Acts 2
    - ❖ The wisdom of God, Ephesians 3:10-12. How?
    - ❖ The two incarnations of Jesus
      - He procured our redemption in the first.
      - He proclaims this redemption through the church.
  - c. Discuss: What are some of the metaphors of the church and what do they suggest about its nature?**
    - ❖ Body – dependent upon the Head
    - ❖ Household – a family of believers
    - ❖ Bride – the object of His eternal affection
    - ❖ Building – in which the Lord dwells (His temple)

**Practical Question** *What effect does the resurrection of Christ have on me personally?*

**Resources**

Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, page 301, "The Resurrection," Moody Press, 1999

Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, pages 235-236, "The Resurrection," Moody Press, 1989

Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, chapter 11, "Resurrection," Zondervan, 1995

## **STUDY 9 – THE PLAN'S WARFARE**

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to understand the spiritual battle in which all Christians are involved in this life.*

**Timeless Truth** *The Christian's armor provides complete protection against the devil.*

**Key Verse** *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.* (Ephesians 6:11)

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. How did Satan oppose God's plan in the Old Testament?
2. How did Satan oppose God's plan in the New Testament?
3. What are Satan's weapons in our spiritual warfare? Where does he center his attack?
4. What is the progress of sin? (James 1:14-15)
5. What has God provided for the Christian to use in spiritual warfare?

**Practical Question** *How can I improve in putting on the "shield of faith" and how will that show in my life?*

**Next week** *The Plan's Weapons*

- Read Julien, *The Three Princes*, chapters 13 and 14.
- Compare/contrast how Adam and Jesus responded when tempted by Satan.
- How can we use the Word of God as a weapon in spiritual warfare?
- What does it mean to "walk" in the Spirit?
- What is the primary lesson to be learned from the story in Luke 18:1-8? Why should we persist in prayer since God already knows our needs?

## **STUDY 9 – THE PLAN'S WARFARE**

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#### 1. Spiritual Vandalism (*The Three Princes*, chapter 10)

##### **a. Discuss: How did Satan attempt to thwart God's plan and program in the Old Testament?**

- ❖ In the OT the name "Satan" (opponent, adversary) appears only 19 times in four books, 14 times in Job, chs. 1, 2, alone.
- ❖ In the temptation of Adam he succeeded, becoming the prince in Adam's place.
- ❖ On numerous occasions he thwarted the prophets' teachings and attacked Israel through their leaders.

##### **b. Discuss: How did Satan continue attacking God's plan while Jesus was on earth?**

- ❖ In the NT the name "Satan" appears 35 times, "devil," 33 times, "demons," 60.
- ❖ In the NT the attacks became more public, including increased demon activity through the Gospel accounts:
  - In Herod's attempt to kill boy Jesus, Satan failed.
  - In the temptation of Jesus, Satan failed.
  - In various attempts on Jesus' life during His ministry, Satan failed.
  - In a premature death in the Garden, Satan failed.
  - In opposing the gospel message during the present age, he will fail.
  - In a final attempt to rebel after the Millennium, he will fail.

2. Spiritual Conflict (*The Three Princes*, chapter 12)
  - a. Satan is a vandal and a squatter; power vs. authority
    - “Power is the ability to impose force upon others.”
    - “Authority is the right to do so.”
    - Satan retains certain power but has no authority.
  - b. Satan's tactics; how does he go about his dastardly business?
    - ❖ As a roaring lion, 1 Peter 5:8
    - ❖ Under cover as an angel of light, 2 Corinthians 11:14
  - c. **Discuss: What are Satan's weapons? (1 John 2:16, KJV)**
    - ❖ The world: “human society alienated from God's influence”; man without God (secular humanism). It is an inversion of values. (More in *The Three Princes*, page 91)
    - ❖ The flesh: sinful nature, Galatians 5:19-21
    - ❖ Evil spirits; Satan controls the kingdom of the air.
  - d. **Discuss: What is the progress of sin? James 1:14-15**

*Note: Satan's main target is the Lord's spiritual kingdom, the church.*
3. The Christian's Defense (*The Three Princes*, chapter 12)
  - a. The Christian is to stand, Ephesians 6:11, 13 (twice), 14
  - b. **Discuss: What has God provided for the Christian to use in spiritual warfare?** Ephesians 6:13-18
    - ❖ The belt of truth – objective reality, Luke 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6. “Truth is not in the subjective interpretation of the reader but in the intent of the writers of Scripture” (page 113). We stand against the schemes of the devil, not through power encounters but through truth encounters.
    - ❖ The breastplate of righteousness – we must affirm our position in Christ, Colossians 2:10.
    - ❖ The preparation of the gospel of peace – Ephesians 2:14-18. Shalom
    - ❖ The shield of faith – “more than intellectual belief, it's total confidence in the Lord” (*The Three Princes*, page 117). The opposite of faith or trust is independence or self-reliance.
    - ❖ The helmet of salvation – the totality of our redemption, including the stripping of Satan's authority (*The Three Princes*, page 116).

**Practical Question** *How can I improve in putting on the “shield of faith” and how will that show in my life?*

**Resources**

Biblical Beliefs, *Christian Practice*, chapters 7, 8, “the Enemy,” CE National, Winona Lake, Ind., 2000

Homer A. Kent, Jr., *The Glory of the Church, Studies in Ephesians*, chapter 11, “Stand Firm in Spiritual Conflict, BMH Books, 2005

Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, page 170-171, “Satan, the Adversary,” Moody Press, 1999

## **STUDY 10 – THE PLAN'S WEAPONS**

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to understand what weapons are available for Christians to use in the spiritual warfare of our day.*

**Timeless Truth** *God's Word is the Christian's primary weapon to overcome Satan's attempts to entrap him.*

**Key Verse** *The word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword.* (Hebrews 4:12, paraphrased)

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Compare/contrast how Adam and Jesus responded when tempted by Satan.
2. How can we use the Word of God as a weapon in spiritual warfare?
3. What does it mean to “walk” in the Spirit?
4. What is the primary lesson to be learned from the story in Luke 18:1-8? Why should we persist in prayer since God already knows our needs?

**Practical Question** *In what specific areas of my life do I need to ask God to help me improve my walk in the Spirit?*

#### **Next week** *The Plan's Mission*

- Read Julien, *The Three Princes*, chapter 15
- What is the nature of the church?
- How is the church an incarnation of Christ?
- What is the role of the church today?
- What are the orders of the Great Commission?
- What does it mean that “Every church is destined to die either by stagnation or germination?”

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**Key Verse** *The word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword.* (Hebrews 4:12, paraphrased)

1. Warring with the Word (*The Three Princes*, chapter 13)
  - a. What is the Word of God?
    - The word “sword” in Eph. 6:17 (“the sword of the Spirit”) indicates a short dagger, used in close combat.
    - In Hebrews 4:12 (“the word of God”), the term is *logos*, indicating the essence of the word. We must know and understand its meaning.
    - In Ephesians 6:17 “the word of God”) the term is *rema*, indicating the expression of the word. We must use and apply it. (Julien: “brandish” it.)
  - b. **Discuss: How did Adam and Jesus respond when tempted by Satan?**
    - ❖ Note the significance of the encounters (*The Three Princes*, page 123)
    - ❖ Adam refused to submit to God's word and affirmed his independence/self-reliance. (Genesis 3:1-13)
    - ❖ In His humanity Jesus experienced the trial. He affirmed His dependence upon the Word of God and used it as His weapon against Satan.
  - c. **Discuss: How can we use the Word of God as a weapon in spiritual warfare?**
    - We have the same resource that Jesus had, cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13.
    - ❖ Against the world: “Brandishing the sword of the Spirit means having a biblical worldview...” (*The Three Princes*, page 126).
    - ❖ Against the flesh (“old nature”): “To use the sword of the Spirit effectively is to walk in the Spirit...” (*The Three Princes*, page 127).

- ❖ Against satanic powers: “Believers can be trapped by the devil and can be taken captive to do his will...” 2 Timothy 2:26 (*The Three Princes*, page 128).

2. Walking in the Spirit (*The Three Princes*, chapter 13)

**a. Discuss: What does it mean to “walk in the Spirit”?**

- The Greek word “walk” is often translated as “walk” in the English translations
- Characteristics: We are to walk in purity, love, work, hope, self-control, and peace (1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:11).
- See, also the admonition in Galatians 5:16-6:10.

**b. Walking in the Spirit means we “must be united with the truth of the word through authentic submission and obedience.”** (*The Three Princes*, page 127)

3. Wrestling in Prayer (*The Three Princes*, chapter 14)

**a. Commands to pray (many texts)**

- Colossians 4:2 – “devote yourselves to prayer”
- Philippians 4:6 – “present your requests to God in everything by prayer”
- 1 Timothy 2:1 – “requests, prayer, intercession, and thanksgiving [should] be made for everyone”

**b. Examples**

- Epaphras, Colossians 4:12 – “always wrestling in prayer”
- Paul, Philippians 1:6 – “in all my prayers for all of you”
- Jesus

**c. Questions to discuss:**

- **What is the primary lesson to be learned from the story in Luke 18:1-8?**
  - ❖ The main point of the parable is not the reticence of the unjust judge, but the request of the persistent widow. (*The Three Princes*, page 134) Thus, perseverance is the primary lesson.

- **Why should we persist, since God already knows our needs and hears us the first time we ask?**
  - ❖ “We’re in spiritual warfare which is not a once-for-all event; it is continual conflict,” (page 136). It’s real and constant, so must be our prayer.
  - ❖ Satan is a squatter on our inheritance, though he was condemned at the cross (John 16:11) and disarmed (Colossians 2:2q5, yet he continues to squat and oppose.
  - ❖ “Some battles are won and some are lost. Persevering prayer determines the difference,” (page 134).

4. Note: an Old Testament Parallel

- God had foretold that Israel would inherit the Promised Land.
- Yet, though the land had been given to them, it was occupied by the enemy, and Israel, the legal title-holder, had to possess the land.
- By faith, we must persist in prayer.
- Praying in faith is to step out on what God has revealed as His will, trusting Him to fulfill His promise.

**Practical Question** *In what specific areas of my life do I need to ask God to help me improve my walk in the Spirit?*

**Resources**

Homer A. Kent, Jr., *The Freedom of God's Sons, Studies in Galatians*, chapter 11, “Walk by the Spirit,” BMH Books, 1976

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Free*, a study of Galatians, chapter 10, “The Fifth Freedom,” Chariot Victor Publishing, 1975

Philip Yancey, *Prayer, Does It Make Any Difference?* Part Two: “Unraveling the Mysteries.” Zondervan, 2006.

## **STUDY 11 – THE PLAN'S MISSION**

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to discover the unique role of the church today.*

**Timeless Truth** *The church's mission is to open people's eyes to God's truth and rescue them from Satan's power.*

**Key Verse** *I am sending you . . . to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and rescue them from Satan's power. (Acts 26:17-18)*

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is the nature of the church?
2. How is the church an incarnation of Christ?
3. What is the role of the church today?
4. What are the orders of the Great Commission?
5. What does it mean that "Every church is destined to die either by stagnation or germination?"

**Practical Question** *What part am I taking in the mission of the church? Where am I engaged in making disciples?*

**Next week** *The Plan's Winner and Loser*

- Read *The Three Princes*, chapter 16 and 17.
- Review in your mind the origin and fall of Satan and how he became the "prince of this world."
- Who are the two major players on behalf of Satan in the "last days"? What are their roles?
- Describe the progress of Satan's defeat and ultimate judgment.
- Where is Jesus today and what is He doing?
- What is to be the future role of Jesus in the end times?

## STUDY 11 – THE PLAN'S MISSION

### Leader's Guide

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to discover the unique role of the church today.*

**Timeless Truth** *The church's mission is to open people's eyes to God's truth and rescue them from Satan's power.*

**Key Verse** *I am sending you . . . to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and rescue them from Satan's power. (Acts 26:17-18)*

#### 1. The Church's Nature

##### a. **Discuss: What is the nature of the church?**

- ❖ The church is people, redeemed and born into the family of God by regeneration.
- ❖ She is seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6) but is resident on earth at present.

##### b. **Discuss: How is the church an incarnation of Christ?**

- ❖ In His first body, our Lord procured salvation.
- ❖ In His “spiritual” body, the church, He proclaims salvation.

##### c. **Discuss: Describe the church's authority and power.**

- ❖ The Great Commission declares the church's authority and power, Matthew 28:18.
- ❖ Acts 1:8 promises power when the Spirit comes. Cf. Zechariah 4:6

#### 2. The Church's Purpose

##### a. **Discuss: What is the role of the church today?**

- ❖ To discover and develop worshipers; used by the Spirit to call out the Bride of Christ.
  - It is to stand against the devil's schemes, Ephesians 6:11. (Note the use of “stand” four times in the context.)

**b. Discuss: What are the orders of the Great Commission? Matthew 28:19-20**

- The Great Commission is the fundamental law of its existence. (*The Three Princes*, page 143),
  - ❖ Go to make disciples.
  - ❖ Teach the disciples to obey Christ's teaching.

**c. Discuss: What does it mean that "Every church is destined to die either by stagnation or germination"?** (*The Three Princes*, page 144)

- ❖ Reproduction. "When a church is committed to her mission, she will constantly break out of her cultural shell, bringing new life." (*The Three Princes*, page 144)

3. The Church's Mission

- a. She is to be salt and light in a dark, tasteless world. (Matthew 5:13-16)
- b. It is not to usher in an earthly kingdom but to deliver the captives of this earthly kingdom into the kingdom of God's Son. (*The Three Princes*, page 142)
- c. **Discuss: What is the two-fold mission of the church today?** (*The Three Princes*, page 141, 147)
  - ❖ To confront people with the message of God.
  - ❖ To confront the forces of evil through prayer.

**Practical Question** *What part am I taking in the mission of the church? Where am I engaged in making disciples?*

**Resources**

Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert, *What Is the Mission of the Church?*, Crossway, 2011

Homer A. Kent, Jr., *The Glory of the Church, Studies in Ephesians*, part 2, "Duties of the Church," BMH Books, 2005

Tom Julien, *Inherited Wealth, Studies in Ephesians*, BMH Books, 1976

## **STUDY 12 – THE PLAN'S WINNER AND LOSER**

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to affirm the defeat of Satan and the exaltation of Christ.*

**Timeless Truth** *Jesus has full authority now and will exercise His full power against Satan and the nations to establish His eternal kingdom.*

**Key Verse** *The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15).*

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Review in your mind the origin and fall of Satan and how he became the “prince of this world.”
2. Who are the two major players on behalf of Satan in the “last days”? What are their roles?
3. Describe the progress of Satan’s defeat and ultimate judgment.
4. Where is Jesus today and what is He doing?
5. What is to be the future role of Jesus in the end times?

**Practical Question** *Am I living in victory over a defeated Satan and in anticipation of the return of Christ?*

#### **Next week** *The Plan's Goal*

- Read Daniel 8:23-25; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 21:1-14, and *The Three Princes*, chapters 18 and 19.
- Why is there to be a new earth?
- Where does God live (in the O.T.) (in the N.T.) (in the future)?
- What is the Holy City? Who will live there?
- What witness will the church give about God through all eternity?

## **STUDY 12 – THE PLAN'S WINNER AND LOSER**

### *Leader's Guide*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to affirm the defeat of Satan and the exaltation of Christ.*

**Timeless Truth** *Jesus has full authority now and will exercise His full power against Satan and the nations to establish His eternal kingdom.*

**Key Verse** *The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15).*

#### 1. Satan, the Defeated Prince

##### a. His history

- **Discuss the origin and fall of Satan and how he became the “prince of this world.”**
  - ❖ Allusions to Satan's fall in Ezekiel 28: 12-19 and Isaiah 14:13-14
  - ❖ He usurped Adam's role when he tempted Adam to sin, giving up his intended role as prince, Genesis 3. He has since ruled as “prince of this world,” as Jesus attested in John 12:31.
  - ❖ The end? Jesus: “I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven” (Luke 10:18). Was He referring to Satan's original fall or prophetically? Cf. a “star fallen from heaven” (Revelation 9:1).

##### b. His allies

- **Discuss: Who are the two major players on behalf of Satan in the “last days”? What are their roles?**
  - ❖ Antichrist, the archenemy of God
    - The man of sin, a political leader, Daniel 8:23-25; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4
    - Sets himself up as God
    - “Satanized” (Many have been demonized but only the Antichrist satanized)

*Study 12*

*The Plan's Winner  
and Loser*

*Leader's Guide*

- ❖ The false prophet
  - Makes war against the saints
  - Imposes authority over the entire world
  - Receives his power from the dragon, Satan, Revelations 13:2
- ❖ The two together
  - “The false prophet will succeed in bringing together the peoples of the earth into a global religion, worshiping the antichrist and mercilessly opposing the true saints of God.” (Julien, page 157)

c. His defeat

- **Discuss the progress of Satan's defeat and ultimate judgment.**
  - ❖ Defeated at the cross
    - “It is finished,” John 19:30 – Jesus had completed the work of redemption and propitiation.
    - The “prince of the world to be driven out,” Jesus says in John 12:31.
    - Jesus paraded Satan and his angels in humiliation before God, Colossians 2:15.
  - ❖ Cast out of heaven; some possible references:
    - Luke 10:18 – Lucifer's original fall from grace; cf. Isaiah 14:11)
    - Revelation 12:9 – the future event at the end of the age
    - The essential (potential at the time) fall of Satan at the cross (John 12:31)
  - ❖ His end
    - The false trinity gathers the kings of the earth and brings them and their armies to Armageddon.
    - A rider on a white horse appears with the armies of heaven. He is the “King of kings” and “Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:11ff.)

2. Jesus, the Eternal Prince

a. His position

- **Discuss: Where is Jesus today and what is His current role?**
  - ❖ Seated with the Father, Ephesians 1:20-21
  - ❖ Has authority (but not yet exercise His full power), Ephesians 1:22-23
  - ❖ Highly exalted, Philippians 2:9-11

b. His return, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:52

- The rapture
- The wedding

c. His role

- **Discuss: What is to be the future role of Jesus in the end times?**
  - As king
    - ❖ Armageddon
    - ❖ The millennial kingdom
  - As judge
    - ❖ Judgment of believers, 2 Corinthians 19:7-9
    - ❖ Condemnation of antichrist and false prophet, revelation 19:20
    - ❖ Final conflict, Revelation 20:7-10
    - ❖ Final judgment, Revelation 20:11-15

**Practical Question** *Am I living in victory over a defeated Satan and in anticipation of the return of Christ?*

**Resources**

Max Anders, *What You Need to Know about Jesus in 12 Easy Lessons*, chapters 11 and 12, Thomas Nelson, 1995

Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, chapters 83, 86, and 91, Moody Press, 1999

Renald Showers, *Maranatha, Our Lord, Come*, a definitive study of the rapture of the church, Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, 1995.

## **STUDY 13 – THE PLAN'S GOAL**

### *Student Handout*

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to affirm the defeat of Satan and the exaltation of Christ.*

**Timeless Truth** *In God's great plan the church is to be a witness to His wisdom and grace forever.*

**Key Verse** *God raised us up with Christ . . . in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace. (Ephesians 2:6-7).*

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why is there to be a new earth?
2. Where does God live? (in the O.T.; in the N.T.; in the future)
3. What is the Holy City? Who will live there?
4. What witness will the church give about God through all eternity?

**Practical Question** *In light of the return of Christ and the destruction of the earth, what kind of person should I be? Which prince am I serving?*

**Conclusion to the Study** *Which Prince are you serving?*

- Adam – self gratification and independence
- Satan – bondage
- Christ – freedom

## STUDY 13 – THE PLAN'S GOAL

### Leader's Guide

**Goal** Our goal in this study is *to catch a glimpse of what God's new heaven and earth might be like.*

**Timeless Truth** *In God's great plan the church is to be a witness to His wisdom and grace forever.*

**Key Verse** *God raised us up with Christ . . . in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace.* (Ephesians 2:6-7).

#### 1. A New Earth

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away” (Revelation 21:1). Between these two statements God unveils the supreme drama of redemption with its three princes. (*The Three Princes*, page 169)

##### a. Their current status

- **Discuss: why is there to be a new earth?**

- ❖ The earth began to deteriorate when Adam fell. When Adam died spiritually, so did the world of which he was the prince. The heavens and earth began the long process of disintegration that continues today. (*The Three Princes*, page 170)
- ❖ Creation awaits reconciliation, Romans 8:19-21
- ❖ Meanwhile, earth is groaning, Romans 8:22

#### 2. His allies

##### a. Their fate, 2 Peter 3

- Reserved for judgment by fire, vv. 7, 12
- Destroyed and laid bare, v. 10
- Note: “destroyed” does not mean annihilated, “destroyed” in Noah's day, v. 6.

##### b. New heaven and new earth

- First earth passed away; no more sea, a new heaven and earth, v. 1
- The old order has passed away, v. 4
- Everything is made new, v. 5

3. A New City – **Discuss: Where does God live?**

- ❖ God has always sought a dwelling place with men
  - ❖ God's dwelling place is always in heaven (Deuteronomy 26:15) but also, in some special way, He also lives among His people.
    - Leviticus 26:11 – I will put my dwelling place (tabernacle) among you.
    - The Shekinah Glory in the tabernacle and temple
  - ❖ In the Old Testament – Jerusalem (see attachment)
  - ❖ In the New Testament – an anticipated city (see attachment)

4. The Holy City

a. In the Revelation – the Holy City (see attachment page 53)

- The identification of the church as a city is no more difficult to understand than the other metaphors for the church: bride, building, temple, vine, flock, family. (*The Three Princes*, page 174)
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 – you yourselves are God's temple and God's Spirit lives in you.
- 1 Corinthians 6:12 – your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit

**b. Discuss: What is the Holy City? Who will live there? Revelation 21**

- ❖ It is not heaven; it comes down from heaven, vv. 2, 10.
- ❖ It is not earth; it comes down to the hearth
- ❖ It is the body of Christ, the church, vv. 9-10
- ❖ Those who dwell in heaven, Revelation 13:6 (tabernacle)
- ❖ The bride, the wife of the Lamb, Revelation 21:2, 9
- ❖ The redeemed of all ages. *The Three Princes*: The church will be composed of all the redeemed of all ages.

c. The Glory of the Church

- Its purpose
  - The supreme purpose of God in the drama of redemption is the calling out and perfecting of the bride of Christ. (*The Three Princes*, page 175)
  - The purpose of the church is to show God's wisdom to the world now, Ephesians 3:10

- **Discuss: What witness will the church give about God through all eternity?**
  - ❖ To show the riches of God's grace "in the coming ages," Ephesians 2:6-7

5. Conclusion to the study: Which Prince are you serving?

a. Adam

- Devotion to self; self-gratification
- His legacy: the sinful nature
- Pride of life; independence

b. Satan

- Bondage, Romans 6
- The whole world is under his control, 1 John 5:19.
- Allowing Satan to control our mind and appetites

c. Christ

- Freedom
- How? By submission to His will
- Galatians 5:1: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."

**Practical Question** In light of the return of Christ and the destruction of the earth, what kind of person should I be? What prince am I serving?

**Resources**

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, Tyndale House, 2004

Tom Julien, *Inherited Wealth, Studies in Ephesians*, chapters 1 and 2, BMH Books, 1976

Paul Lee Tan, *New Jerusalem*, Bible Communications, 1978

## **ATTACHMENT TO STUDY #13**

### *God's "city" in the Old Testament*

- 1 Kings 8:1 – the city of David, which is Zion
- Nehemiah 11:1 – in Jerusalem, the holy city
- Psalm 2:6 – Zion, my holy hill
- Psalm 9:11 – The Lord, enthroned in Zion
- Isaiah 52:1 – O, Jerusalem, the holy city

### *An Anticipated "city" in Hebrews*

- 11:10 – Abraham was looking forward to the city
- 11:16 – God has prepared a city; cf. John 14:1-2
- 12:22 – you have come to Mt. Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God
- 13:14 – here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come

### *The "city" in the Revelation*

- 3:12 – Jesus: the overcomer will have the name of the city of God written on him.
- 11:2 – Gentiles will trample on the holy city for 42 months.
- 20:9 – the city God loves
- 21:2 – the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, prepared as a bride
- 21:10 – the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God
- 22:19 – God will take away one's share in the tree of life and the Holy City if he takes away words from this book of prophecy.